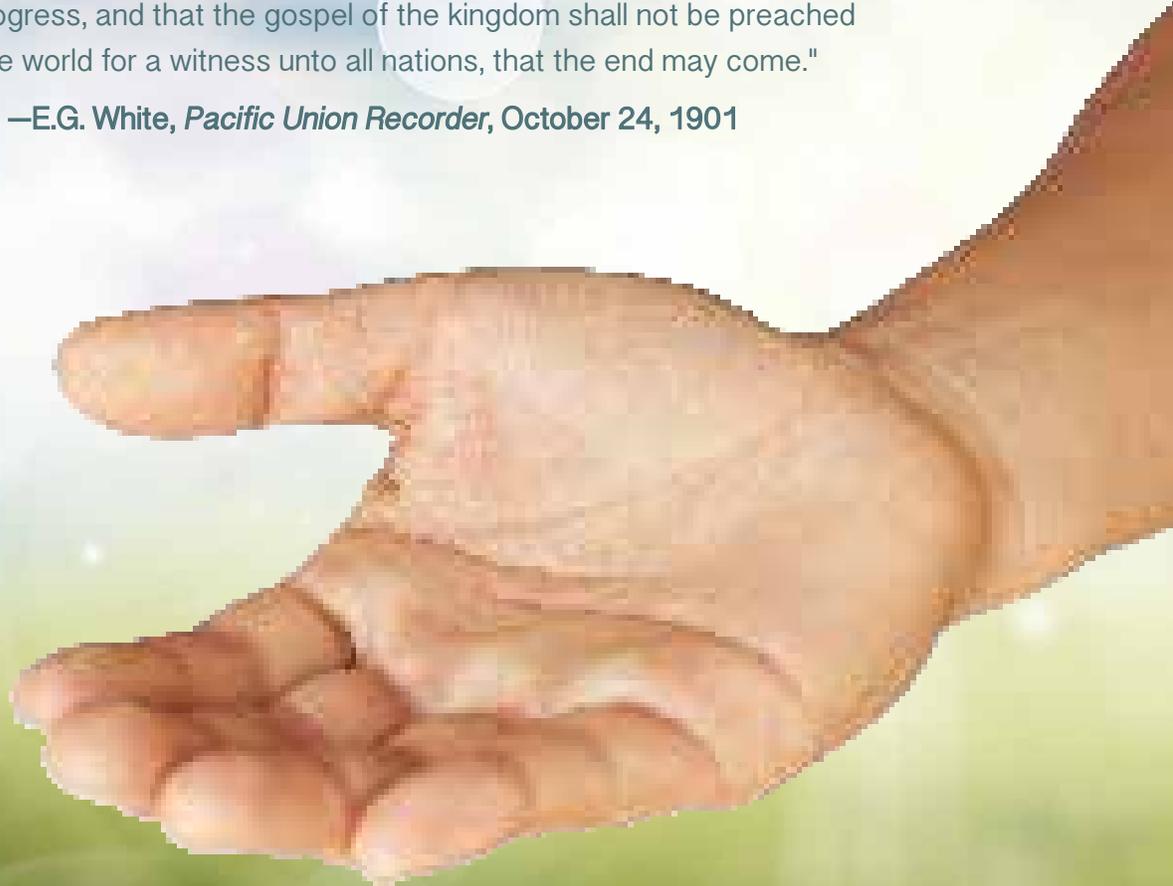


# CAROLINA ACTION

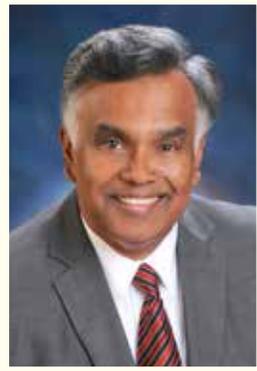
ISSUE 4, 2015

"Some say, 'We are tired of giving. It is the old cry, 'Give, give.'" If we are tired of giving, we should be tired of receiving; for this is why God gives to us, that we may be channels through which His gifts may reach others, and we have the reward. As soon as we wish in our hearts that there would be no more calls to give, we virtually desire that the cause of God shall make no further progress, and that the gospel of the kingdom shall not be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, that the end may come."

—E.G. White, *Pacific Union Recorder*, October 24, 1901



***A Hand Open to Give is Also Open to Receive***



# From the President's Pen

## Tired of Giving? Then I ask you to stop reading. Return after you have prayerfully reflected on the quote found on the cover of this issue...profound words from the Messenger of the Lord to His Advent people.

This Summer, our leadership team from the Conference office took a day trip to visit Valdese, North Carolina. Valdese, located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, is the largest community of Waldensian descendents in the United States.

We first visited a museum which honors their life of faithfulness. We then visited the Trail of Faith, a walking tour through replicas of original buildings and authentic artifacts. We walked in solemn reflection of the struggles and sacrifices endured by these God-fearing people. I invite you to re-read the chapter of *The Great Controversy* on the Waldensians to refresh your memory of what these faithful people went through to keep the Holy Scriptures safe. (We extend our special gratitude to Elder Barry Mahorney, our retired pastor from the Morganton Church, for helping to facilitate this special outing.)

Just a few weeks ago Carole and I held hands and prayed with tear-glistered eyes as we watched a dramatization of the Waldensians entitled, "From this Day Forward." When I remember that their bloodshed helped preserve the Word that I treasure in my heart, I have a newly-discovered passion every time I pick up my Bible. I was greatly touched by what I heard and saw in Valdese.

We are also called to the same level of commitment as was seen in this special group of Christians. In the closing words of Chapter 4 of *The Great Controversy*, Ellen White pens this poignant thought for us, His remnant people, "They [The Waldenses] planted the seeds of the Reformation ... and it [will be] be carried forward to the close of time by those who also are willing to suffer all things for 'the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.' Revelation 1:9."

Three years ago when our administrative team prayerfully envisioned the concept of Generous Living, we had a Waldensian-style faith in mind. The term Generous Living represents my complete commitment to Christ and His church. It's "All of me in response to all of Him." It is my bold affirmation that God is truly the owner of all things, and that I am simply His steward. If I am thinking and acting like I'm the owner, that's a red flag indeed. Carole and I have discovered that when we think of our gifts as God's money we're using to accomplish God's work, we discover a peace and joy we never had before.

Next August, delegates from all the churches in Carolina will convene in a

special session. At that time, my term of service as your servant leader will be evaluated by representatives from all of our congregations, and either come to a close or be re-instated. As important as it is to me to do my best as a servant of God in the Carolina Conference, even more important is the fact that, at the end of our term of service on earth, all of us will undergo the ultimate job performance evaluation.

"For we will all stand before God's judgment seat... So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God." Romans 14: 10,12

*Give of your best to the Master;  
Give Him first place in your heart;  
Give Him first place in your service;  
Consecrate every part.  
Give, and to you will be given;  
God His beloved Son gave;  
Gratefully seeking to serve Him,  
Give Him the best that you have.*

-Howard B. Grose

So are you tired of giving? Then remember the Waldensians.

Leslie D, Louis  
*President, A servant leader for the Lord*



Contributed



# Super Cool Nosoca!

“Summer camp this year has been tremendous,” says Rick Faber, summer camp director at Nosoca Pines Ranch. “We’ve had wonderful staff taking care of the kids and ministering to them.”

The theme for camp this year was “Heading for Home.” Encompassing the secular and spiritual meanings of the word “Home,” the theme was carried out through activities like baseball and softball, but also also lended itself to our desire as Christians to head to our heavenly home.

“Camp gives the kids a vision of how Christianity can work in their life as they see our staff making decisions to follow Christ,” Faber continued. Although the

actual baptisms don’t take place during summer camp, the kids are given the opportunity to make decisions or reaffirm their choice to follow Christ. The camp staff then bring the young person into contact with a pastor or church near their home where that decision can be carried out through baptism.

“Our goal as staff is to show Christ to the kids,” continues Faber, “to build relationships with them so we can share how that same decision to follow Christ has worked out for us.”

— Esther Smith



Photos by Tanya Maggrave

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Ever since the Lighthouse Seventh-day Adventist Fellowship was planted in Huntersville, NC, in 2010, this small group has lived up to its name by shining the light of Christ in its community. According to church communication leader Antoinette Travers,

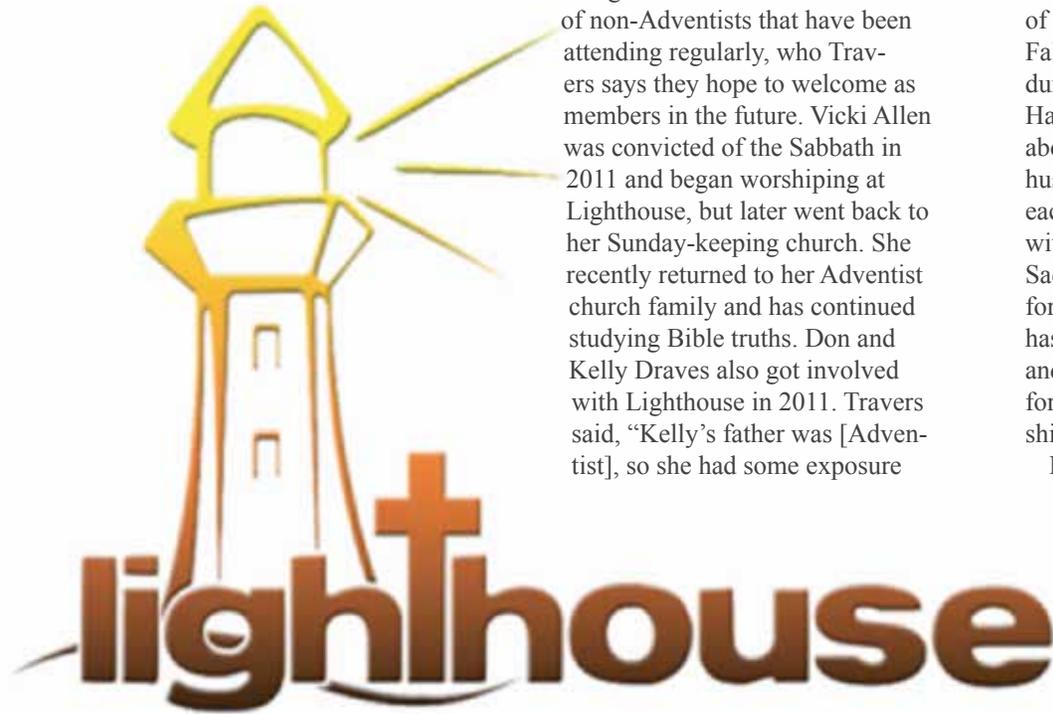
the first official baptized members of Lighthouse were Jerry and Connie Lemke. The couple began visiting the congregation in 2011 after Jerry studied the Bible and became convicted of the seventh-day Sabbath. He now serves as head deacon and his wife, Connie, hosts a weekly women's Bible study in their home.

Lighthouse also has a number of non-Adventists that have been attending regularly, who Travers says they hope to welcome as members in the future. Vicki Allen was convicted of the Sabbath in 2011 and began worshipping at Lighthouse, but later went back to her Sunday-keeping church. She recently returned to her Adventist church family and has continued studying Bible truths. Don and Kelly Draves also got involved with Lighthouse in 2011. Travers said, "Kelly's father was [Adventist], so she had some exposure

to the faith as a child. They have attended a year-long small group study on the 28 fundamental beliefs, and we are prayerful that they will make a decision for baptism soon."

Another couple, David and Linda McGinnis, has been visiting Lighthouse for two years. Linda is an Adventist, and both David and his daughter Divette attended a series of meetings with *It Is Written* in the Fall of 2014. Divette was baptized during the meetings. Similarly, Sonya Hanson began attending Lighthouse about a year ago at the urging of her husband, Don. He faithfully attended each Sabbath and studied the Bible with head elder Mark Patterson. Sadly, he succumbed to an aggressive form of cancer this Spring, but Sonya has continued to attend Lighthouse, and church members are looking forward to forming a deeper relationship with her.

By God's grace, the Lighthouse family has continued to experience steady growth in recent months. This year several lives were touched by Conference Evangelist Steve Vail as they met during meetings he held in



Photos by Ron Quick

Huntersville from January to March. Beverle Thomas and Franklin Emmanuel are friends who both received flyers advertising the meetings and attended every night. They embraced the message and were baptized by Pastor Vail in April. Joining them in baptism were William Akins, Robert Morrison, Dean Freeman and Kent and Dawn Walton.

As it turns out, William's wife of ten years, Cora, was an Adventist, and so was Robert's wife, Chrissy. Neither of the men had felt at home in Adventist churches they attended previously, but both came to enjoy the fellowship at Lighthouse and joined their wives as members. Freeman had been visiting with the Lighthouse congregation since 2013 and always spoke of himself as an Adventist. He led a table during Pastor Vail's meetings, and it was then that he decided to make his church membership official. The Waltons also started coming to Lighthouse in 2013, after seeking a church that kept the biblical Sabbath.

They attended the meetings with their 14-year-old daughter, Sydney, who joined the church by profession



of faith after witnessing her parents' baptism.

Another individual reached by Pastor Vail's meetings was Judy Kopstein, a former Adventist who left the church over 20 years ago. She attended the evangelistic series faithfully and decided to rededicate her life to the Lord, joining

Lighthouse by profession of faith in May. A man named Vincent Cataldi attended the series as well, and liked what he heard so much that he decided to keep coming. Travers said, "He attends Sabbath school, church service and a weekly small group study. We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know him and look forward to his decision for baptism in God's time."

These are just a few examples of how God has been working in Huntersville alongside the Lighthouse congregation, and goes to show that no church is too new or too small to light up their community. These people are spreading a message of love and hope that those around

them cannot ignore, and as a result lives are being forever changed.

—Aimee Garver



# THE UNEXPECTED Education



*"All your children will be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of your children."*

Isaiah 54:13

## When you put different chemicals together, occasionally you get a delightful accidental result.

In this case, God brought together two very different individuals and created an unexpected spiritual reaction that many would call an absolute delight.

Dmitri had completed his freshman year at Mount Pisgah Academy and was looking forward to being



a sophomore. He grew up there. He went to elementary school there. Everyone knows he laughs a lot, challenges staff and always has a smart response just under his breath. Everyone knows Dmitri.



Elsa, a retired doctor, is a petite, gray-haired, soft-spoken woman. She speaks with a thick Spanish accent, attends Mt. Pisgah Academy Church faithfully, and is a blessing to all those who know her. She lives in a condo at the Pisgah Valley Retirement Community across the road from Mt. Pisgah Academy.

These two seemingly-opposite people have become an unlikely duo, with life-changing results. It began in 2006 when a grant was developed to bring retirees and teenagers together through what is called the ASSIST Program, administered by Southern Adventist University. The program provides work opportunities to elementary and academy students, and assistance to retirees, either in their own homes or in an assisted living or skilled care facility. The students help with chores and provide companionship. The goal of this program is for “students and residents to build strong relationships that encourage each other through their daily lives.” Dmitri and Elsa are perfect examples of how this works.

Dmitri entered the ASSIST Program at the beginning of his freshman year at MPA, and by the end of the year he was one of the stars of the program. In fact, there were many requests by the senior residents for Dmitri to work for them over the summer. Elsa was particularly adamant that Dmitri work for her. You see, God had a plan, and being a godly woman she was urgent in her efforts to follow that plan.



As the summer unfolded, Elsa took opportunities to pray with Dmitri, and to talk with him about the world in which we live. She talked with him about end-time events, the Pope’s upcoming visit, and the decisions Dmitri was making as a teenager. Her witnessing began to have its effect..

One morning in Sabbath School he shared the result of his relationship with Elsa. Dmitri stood boldly before his classmates and told them that he

felt he had not been living his life the way he should. He felt side-tracked by the trappings of this world. Out of a box he began taking items that only a few weeks ago he would have considered his “treasures”—video games, DVDs and electronic devices. He then stated, “Time is short, and we don’t need any distractions pulling us away.”

He then proceeded to break and throw into the trash hundreds of dollars’ worth of items that he believed were keeping him from what really matters. Dmitri made an appeal to his classmates to focus on what will matter into eternity and to not get side-tracked by the unimportant.

Dmitri has grown in his relationship with God as a result of the relationship he developed with Elsa through the ASSIST Program at Mt. Pisgah Academy.

This program runs entirely on donated funds—80 percent by an anonymous donor and 20 percent raised by the participating school through community fundraisers, which also serve to promote the program. This year Mount Pisgah Academy needs to raise at least \$10,000. The program aids students like Dmitri with their academic careers, and provides eternal rewards to both students and senior mentors.

Consider supporting Mt. Pisgah Academy’s ASSIST Program. Donations may be submitted to the attention of Mr. Kevin Worth at Mt. Pisgah Academy, 75 Academy Drive, Candler, NC, 28715 or by phone at (828) 667-2535.

—Mary Kerr



Dmitri and Elsa praying together



**GOAL: \$1,000,000**  
**GIVEN: \$739,024.15**

## HOW CAN I HELP?

### WITH YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for evangelism in Carolina—pray for our churches, the pastors, our people who support evangelistic meetings, AND our friends, neighbors and community. Ask God to move in a mighty way.

### WITH YOUR CONVERSATION, PLANS AND ACTION

Please talk about evangelism—in your Sabbath School classes, at your church board, at fellowship meals. Make it a point of planning and action. But don't let it be all talk...make sure your plans are carried out.

### WITH YOUR FINANCES

God has laid a great burden on our hearts. And yours, too, we trust. With the tremendous challenge that has been placed before us, let's move forward, knowing that what God asks us to do, He provides the strength and means to accomplish.

## GIVE TODAY:

704-596-3200  
 CAROLINASDA.ORG  
 OR SCAN CODE:



# News from AROUND THE CONFERENCE



Carole Louis

## Our Pastors in Carolina Blue

The Carolina Pastors gathered in the Austin Convention Center between seminars at the North American Division CALLED Convention in Austin, Texas, June 28 – July 1, 2015. You will note their matching

“CALLED to the Carolinas” shirts.

The convention provided opportunities for pastors to both develop their core competencies as well as raise some of their skills. Break-out groups focused on evangelism, leadership, worship, management, scholarship and people skills, all built on the foundation of character.

## The Sumners Celebrate 66th Anniversary

Margaret E. Twomley and Russell C. Sumner were married Nov. 06, 1949, in Holly Oak, Michigan, at the Holly Church.

Russell served in World War II as an ambulance driver in the Philippines. He and his brother-in-law, Dr. P.J. Moore, were honored to view the recently-completed World War II memorial with other veterans that served.

Margaret graduated from Melrose Sanatorium and Hospital in Waltham, Maine.

They both retired after many years of service at Florida Hospital Orlan-

do. Russell worked in the Pathology Department and as a laboratory technician. Margaret spent her career as a registered nurse. She was promoted to be director of nursing and then a vice-president.

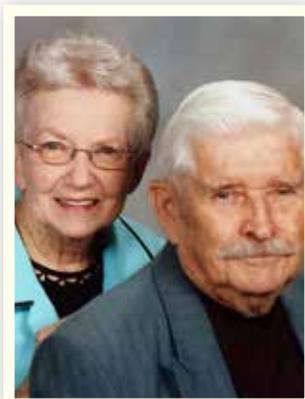
Russell and Margaret both love music. Russell sang in several quartets; Margaret was a talented pianist and organist. She played for his solos and quartet as well for several different churches.

After retirement, they first moved to Murphy, NC but are now living at the Fletcher Park Inn Retirement Center in Hendersonville, NC.

They have been blessed with two boys,

Charles and Gary, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

—Charles and Darlene Sumner





Ever felt God calling  
you to do more?

Is your desire to be a  
better witness?

Do you recognize  
the time is near?

This event is for you.

Be different.  
Take a stand.  
Make an  
**IMPACT.**

# Evangelism IMPACT 2016

Be trained by God's present-day warriors to help win the battle for the Kingdom.

MYRTLE BEACH

South Carolina

January 8-10

Registration online

[www.carolinasda.org](http://www.carolinasda.org)

\*Spanish Track Available

FEATURED PRESENTERS:



**Doug Batchelor**

*Speaker/President  
Amazing Facts Ministries*



**Roger Hernandez**

*Ministerial/Evangelism Director  
Southern Union Conference*

And the TRAINING TEAM from the  
Amazing Facts School of Evangelism!

ENCOURAGE  
ENCOUNTER  
ENGAGE



# Welcome TO THE FAMILY

## New Believers Retreat

Richard Bach once said, “The bond that links your true family is not one of blood, but of respect and joy in each other’s life.” This statement is also true about one’s church family. This August, new members from across the Carolinas came together at the “Welcome to the Family” retreat, hosted at Nosoca Pines Ranch.



The weekend was filled with fun activities, conference ministries and department booths, fellowship, music from Natasha Hildebran Perez and messages from guest speaker Elder Gary Patterson (above). Each of Elder Patterson’s messages were focused on how we are all a part of the family of God.

“The Welcome to the Family weekend was informative and inspiring!” says Ashley Lucas, member at the Monroe, NC, church. “It helped me to see that the Seventh-day Adventist church has so many opportunities to connect our family with God in everything we do, such as schools, jobs, training and extra curricula for our children. It also helped me to meet other Seventh-day Adventists and see that we can still have fun keeping Christ first.”

To better understand the different departments and ministries of the Carolina Conference, there were booths set up for the new members to meet and interact with the directors, and to learn what programs and ministries are available for them.

Elder Patterson pointed out that

the connections we make now will follow us the rest of our lives in the church. We are a church family, and that means like any family we have all different personalities. But also like a family, there is a need for an atmosphere of acceptance and support, embracing each other with the love of Christ.

—Courtney Herod

*Left/below: Servant Leaders—Carolina Conference officers serve lunch at the Welcome to the Family Retreat.*



Becky Carpenter



Becky Carpenter



Courtney Herod

## Does your family have a MISSION STATEMENT?

My beloved wife, Ann Marie, is a woman of lists. She has the traditional weekly grocery list stuck to the fridge, but she also has the bulk grocery list, the errands list, our home school teaching plan (a GIANT list of things to get done), long term projects list and many more. I’ve joked that she needs a list to keep track of the lists. However, I’m so thankful for Ann Marie’s lists! Without those lists, I don’t think our family could even tread water.

Our schedules these days are insane. I’m already resolved to the fact that those of you who attend

the church I pastor who have kids in academy will be a rare commodity during the school year due to your bulging schedules. The bumper stickers that reads, “Mom’s Taxi,” would be cute if we didn’t realize the stress that comes with it.

Successful businesses (and church congregations) are the ones that take the time to develop a vision and a mission statement. They are displayed, talked about and continually referred to. Families should also have a vision and a mission statement that reflects who they are as a family and what their goals are. We have the

power to set a course for our family, and not just drift in our present cultural sea!

Once you have a family mission statement, it’s time to assess your family schedule and make it your own again. Ruth Soukup, in her blog titled “How to Take Back Your Schedule (Like a Boss),” shares five essential questions to ask as a family before adding anything to your calendar or to-do list:

1. Does it fit with our family mission? As you look at your schedule, bad or destructive things are easier to

...continued on page 15.



## Healed at Camp Meeting

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.” James 5:16

Thursday at Lake Junaluska Camp Meeting, May 2015, I heard the announcement about a healing service in the Stone Chapel immediately after the evening meeting.

I got to thinking seriously about attending. Would I have enough faith for God to heal this pain in my leg that with every step, reminds me that I’m hurting? Remembering that Jesus healed the lame, the sick with palsy and the lepers, I began to think positively.

Over the years I have been in the habit of returning a faithful tithe and offering. The words from James 1:6 came to mind: “Let him ask in faith without doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.” Also James wrote, “You do not have because you do not ask.” James 4:3

I believe in the power of God. So I prayed and was convinced by the Word of God. I arrived at the service a little late and the chapel was full. Some were standing. I went forward, and as the pastor prayed I felt the healing power of my Lord ease the pain out. I thanked God and walked away with joy in my heart and praise for my Savior. The pain was gone and I walked with so much ease. It is the first time I attended a healing service, but not the first time the Lord has healed me, and always in answer to prayer.

—Anonymous

The  
**50's**

**ROMANCE  
AT THE  
RANCH**

**A WEEKEND COUPLE'S RETREAT**  
February 12-14—English · February 26-28—Spanish  
Nosoca Pines Ranch

<p><b>FRIDAY</b> 4:00-6:00 Registration 6:00 Supper 7:00 Meeting</p>	<p>1:30 Free time 3:45 Meeting 7:00 Banquet/ Pictures 8:00 Social</p>	<p><b>CABIN: \$211</b> <b>COTTAGE: \$247</b> <b>LODGE: \$260</b></p>
<p><b>SABBATH</b> 8:30 Breakfast 9:30 Meeting 11:00-12:15 Meeting 1:00 Lunch</p>	<p><b>SUNDAY</b> 8:30 Breakfast 9:30 Meeting 11:00 Head Home!</p>	

**Featuring: Ruber and Ketty Leal**

**RUBER AND KETTY LEAL** are the Family Ministries co-directors for the Texas Conference, and founders of ForeverOne© Ministries. Within the last five years, over 700 families in Texas and across the U.S. have been revitalized through their marriage and parenting curriculum. The Leals write articles for several magazines, books and videos on family matters.

REGISTER AT [WWW.CAROLINASDA.ORG](http://WWW.CAROLINASDA.ORG)



Photos by Rick and Deborah Hutchinson



Left to right: Carolyn Liers, Sue Kauffman, Rocio Roberts and Rick Hutchinson

**“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”**  
**James 1:17**

I once heard about a lady who was running late for her dentist appointment. It was raining so hard that day that it seemed the floodgates of Heaven must have opened up. Huge raindrops were pounding her windshield. Just as she turned the corner into the parking lot, she realized that she had forgotten her umbrella. Seeing that the parking lot was full of cars, she said a quick prayer, “Lord, please make a parking

spot right at the front door for me.” Just as she pulled close to the door of the office, someone backed their car out and she had the perfect spot. She quickly said another prayer, “Don’t bother, Lord, I just found a spot on my own.”

In August, I was reminded once again that I too often take for granted both the small and the large blessings that God so abundantly provides. The NAD Planned Giving and Trust Services Department requires continuing education for trust services employees. This year the training was held in Calgary, Canada. The trust services team from Southern Adventist University invited several of us from the Carolina Conference to join them for a few days in the majestic creation of God called the Canadian Rocky Mountains. As we viewed amazing mountain ranges, awesome wa-

terfalls and captivating wildlife, the words from James 1:17 kept coming to my mind. God has given us so many good and perfect gifts and yet we too often fail to acknowledge those gifts. Likewise, we often fail to return His tithe and a small portion of those blessings as our offerings.

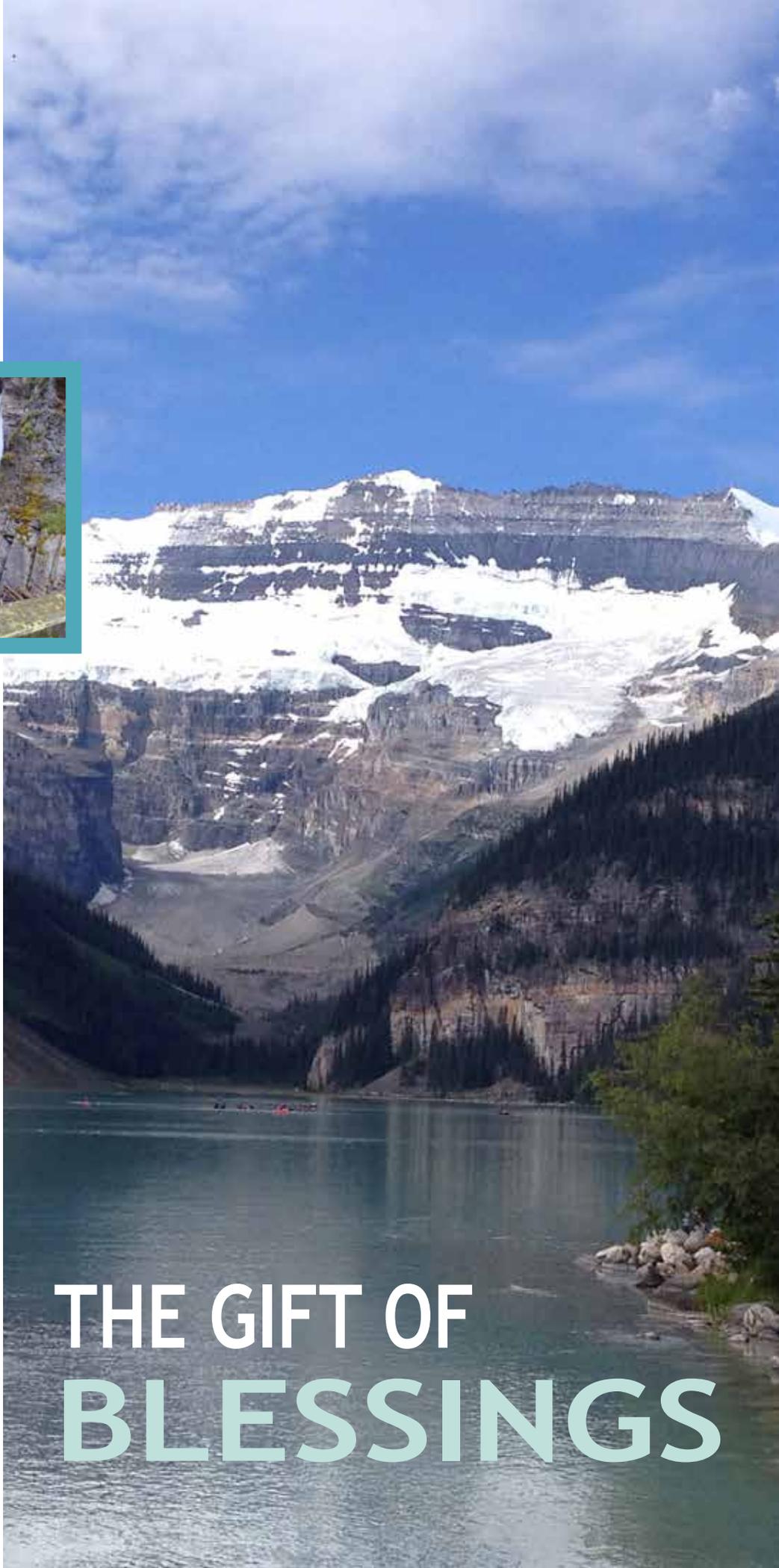
As I travel around the Conference, I hear many stories of how our church members have stepped out in faith and have received unexpected blessings. You will read about some of these steps in faith and the resulting blessings in the upcoming Generous Living bulletin inserts.

Our church members are proof that when we honor God with our life and keep Him first, when we walk in God’s path, and when we make pleasing Him our number one priority, then His blessings come to us just as he promised in Malachi 3:10. God is



# GENEROUSLIVING

ALL OF ME IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM



faithful-ALWAYS! In this verse, God invites us to try Him, to test Him. He promises to open the windows of Heaven and pour out such blessings that there will not be room enough to receive it.

It is my prayer that each member of the Carolina Conference will put God first, walk in His pathway, please Him and experience the blessings that He has promised. We want to hear the story of your blessings. Please contact the Generous Living Department at the Conference Office by phone or email so that your story can be used to encourage others: Phone: 704-596-3200; Email: [rroberts@carolinasda.org](mailto:rroberts@carolinasda.org).

—Rick Hutchinson, Director of Generous Living and Planned Giving & Trust Services

To learn more about Generous Living, scan this code or go to [www.carolinasda.org](http://www.carolinasda.org).



# THE GIFT OF BLESSINGS

# Reaching Youth for Christ WITH A NEW NAME

Carolina Youth for Christ (CYC) officially affiliated with GYC, Generation of Youth for Christ this Spring. Now known as GYC Carolina (GYCC), they are excited about the new possibilities for ministry in the Carolinas.

In July, GYC Carolina held their annual Cross-Training program at the Hendersonville Adventist church in NC. This event was filled with classes, outreach and wonderful fellowship. Presenters included Pastor David Wright, Shawn Craig, Michelle Doucoumes, Shoma Mowa, Michael Martin and Pastor John Earnhardt. Class topics focused on apologet-



Contributed

ics, Bible study, and how to share your faith unashamedly.

After a powerful church service on Sabbath, youth and local church members conducted a community religious survey to determine people's spiritual needs/interests. They also passed out *The Great Controversy* and GLOW

tracts to 94 homes. The best part was praying with people and finding 14 Bible study interests! God arranged divine appointments for the youth who returned with exciting testimonies to share. The Hendersonville church will be following up on the interests.

Connect. Inspire. Train. Equip. Youth. This is why GYC Carolina exists. For more information about youth revival and training events for ages 13-35, check out their new website: [www.gyccarolina.org](http://www.gyccarolina.org)

—Jenasia Jones and Brittainy Brown

## Train Them 2 Fish: AN INSPIRATION

Most have heard the saying “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.” One organization is taking this concept to the second largest country in Africa, once notorious as the rape capital of the world—the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

After nearly two decades of civil war, the DRC remains a hot spot for violence. Despite its instability, this large country has a rapidly-growing Adventist movement. Train Them 2 Fish is a licensed nonprofit organization that trains new converts as Bible workers, who then carry on the cycle of evangelism. TT2F also trains the Congolese people in crafts like sewing and basket weaving to help them earn a better living. The project started after Richard and Karolyn Leonard, members of the Arden, NC, church, visited the DRC on a ShareHim trip and saw the need there. The couple recruited help from people back home and coordinated with the DRC church leadership, and TT2F was born.

On Sabbath, June 20, the Greensboro, NC, church welcomed a special guest speaker. Pastor Thomas Ongasa, the South Kivu Field President for the DRC, preached a moving sermon about

the service call of the Good Samaritan. Later that afternoon, he gave a presentation on the ways God has been working in the DRC, especially through the efforts of TT2F.



In Bukavu, one of the major cities on the eastern border, church membership has leaped from just 300 to over 1,000 in the last three years. TT2F sponsors local Bible workers to



Contributed

shepherd the new church start ups, and helps to distribute Swahili Bibles and fund church building projects. The organization has also set a number of long term goals to help the Congolese people become more self-sufficient.

TT2F recently found 14 acres of land to help them accomplish these goals,

but did not have enough money for the purchase. This is where the Carolina Conference has stepped in, with the promise to match dollar for dollar up to a total of \$10,000 to support this ministry. Pastor Ongasa said: “The matching dollars will be given to purchase that property. Then we can build a school of evangelism there; we can train medical missionaries there; and we can build a clinic to help people.”

Not only does this organization want to improve living conditions and bring people in the DRC to Christ, but its founders have even loftier ambitions. “Congo is the most populous French-speaking country in the world,” Pastor Ongasa explained. “We believe that from the Congo we can spread the gospel to all the other French-speaking countries in Africa—even France itself needs missionaries. God is blessing us and he wants us to finish the work. We cannot only pray for the Second Coming, but also hasten the Second Coming, and the only way to hasten the Second Coming is to become missionaries.”

What an inspiration! For more information about how you can get involved in this exciting project, visit [www.fish4alifetime.com](http://www.fish4alifetime.com) or contact the Arden Seventh-day Adventist church.

—Aimee Garver

## Does your family have a Mission Statement? (continued from page 9.)

identify. But it's more challenging to identify good things that might not fit into your mission as a family. What you add should fit your mission.

2. Is this something we want to do? I tend to say yes to things on the spur of the moment and later regret not thinking it through. Ask yourself if this is something that you really want to do. If not, say no up front.

3. Will it add to or detract from the goals of your family? If what you are scheduling is not *adding* to the goals of your family, then it will most assuredly detract from your goals. Learn to recognize these situations before you hop on the hamster wheel.

4. Is anyone left out if we make this decision? No two people are just alike, even in the same family. Take all personalities and temperaments in account. How will your commitments affect each member of the family?

5. Is there still room for fun? When our schedules are so full, life becomes all about pushing through to the other side of the situations we are in. Fun gets crowded out as we just think of survival. Schedule fun times, play dates and game nights as you would a doctor's appointment. Put it on the schedule and protect it.

Keeping our heads above water is a real challenge with our hectic lives.

But when we know where we are going as a family because we have a shared vision and a clearly-outlined family mission, it is much easier to evaluate the commitments we make. Take charge of your schedule and make it work for you. Remember the adage: "If you're not minding the business, who is?"

—Eric Bates, D.Min., Senior Pastor, Arden Church and Family Ministries Director, Carolina Conference

(Note: Focus on the Family has a helpful webpage on writing a family mission statement at <http://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/spiritual-growth-for-kids/writing-a-family-mission-statement>)

### CAROLINA OBITUARIES

**FOREMAN**, Lewis Edgar, 86, born July 23, 1928, died on July 8, 2015, in Hendersonville, NC. Lewis was a member of the Fletcher church. Mr. Foreman served in the US Army during the Korean War. He retired from both Park Ridge Hospital and the Charles George VA Medical Center as a radiologist at the age of 80. He loved skating and learned to roller blade at the age of 70. He is preceded in death by his parents, Lorena Mildred Partridge and Levi Pearl Foreman; and a sister, Frances Jackson. Survivors include his loving wife of 63 years, Jean P. Foreman; three daughters, Susan Wilson of WV, Jeannine Simmons (Larry) of SC, and Pamela Wright (Mark) of Asheville; brother, Elbert Levi Foreman (Eugenia) of FL; brother-in-law, Virgil Prindle of Fairview, NC; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**HUMPHREY**, Billy, 77, born October 7, 1937, died March 29, 2015 in Richlands, NC. He was a member of the Jacksonville, NC, church. He is survived by his wife, Shelva Humphrey; two daughters, Pam Hunter (Harry) of

Beulaville, NC, and Jennifer Jones of Richlands, NC; five sisters, Christine Williams, Katherine Matthews, Linda Whaley, Marie Sloan and Betty Brinson; and one grandson, B.G. Hunter. He was preceded in death by his parents, Lacy and Prudie Humphrey; one grandson, Harvey Hunter, Jr.; two sisters, Ruth Stevens and Creasey Ramsey; and one brother, Cecil Humphrey.

**LIDLAW (JEWEL)**, Margaret "Peggy" Frances, 93, born August 25, 1921, in Kenora, Ontario, Canada, died June 15, 2015, in Hendersonville, NC. Margaret was a member of the Fletcher church. Margaret was a mother and a homemaker. After retirement she took care of infants, raising them to adulthood. She was preceded in death by nine siblings and her husband, Adam Laidlaw. She is survived by her daughters, Kathryn Janet Nelson (Glenn) of Fletcher, NC; Peggy Lee Peterson (Merle) of Hendersonville, NC; four grandchildren, Glenda Nelson, Janean Nelson, Jason Peterson (Sacha), Justin Peterson (Tammy); and four great-grandchildren, Zachary, Markenna, Zoe and Logan.

### Carolina Conference Calendar

#### November

**Elder Certification** --- Nov. 6-7. Fayetteville Church. Presenting Session #2, Visitation.

**Carolina Ministerial Spouses Retreat** --- Nov. 6-8. NPR.

**Community Services Retreat** --- Nov. 13-15. NPR. Register at [www.carolinasda.org](http://www.carolinasda.org) or contact Bob Self, 704-596-3200.

#### December

**MPA Christmas Concert** --- Dec. 11-12. MPA.

#### January

**Generous Living Rally** --- Jan. 30. Charlotte Sharon Church. All are invited.

**Generous Living Summit** --- Jan. 31. --- NPR. Local pastors and Generous Living Team members are encouraged to attend this event. Call 704-596-3200 for more information.

#### February

**Romance at the Ranch** --- Feb. 12-14. NPR.

**Spanish Romance at the Ranch** --- February 26-28. NPR.

**Mother/Daughter & Father/Son Weekend** --- Feb. 26-28. MPA.

#### March

**Elders Retreat** --- Mar. 11-12. NPR

**Alive Youth Rally** --- Mar. 18-19. Spartanburg, SC.

For an online version of this calendar, visit the Carolina Conference web site at [www.carolinasda.org](http://www.carolinasda.org).

## Have a great story?

If you have a special program in your church that you would like to see highlighted in the Carolina Conference publications, please contact us! 704-596-3200 or [miglesias@carolinasda.org](mailto:miglesias@carolinasda.org).

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